

**FY 2011 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)
Emailed Questions and Answers (Q&A)**

The below questions and answers were emailed to TSAGrants.

Q: How should we write-up our requests for “overtime” patrols? If we apply for an event of regional significance, does it need to be a National Special Security Event (NSSE)? How should we justify our request?

A: You should identify any significant events (Republican or Democratic National Conventions, Super Bowl, etc.) as well as any significant time periods (e.g., major holidays) when you may need to be on heightened alert. While the events should be significant, they do not need to be NSSE-level events. Write up these events/timeframes, identifying the number of officers and overtime hours you anticipate needing. You cannot just ask for a lump-sum number for events to be determined in the future, but justify your request with specific events/dates, hours, and overtime rates.

Q: How would the risk group score be treated if we submitted a regional project (one agency applies on the behalf of multiple agencies in the region)? If the agencies included in the application have different risk scores, is the project’s risk score affected by which agency submits the application?

A: The highest risk group score of the agencies would be used. This is not impacted by which of the agencies submit the investment justification as long as all the agencies participating in the regional project are clearly noted. For example, if there are three agencies in your region with risk group scores of 2, 3, and 4, then the regional project would receive the risk group score of 4.

Q: Do you expect that the DHS Secretary will raise the 10% operational cap? Is there a limit on what the percentage could be?

A: The Secretary of DHS does have the authority to waive the operational cap, if justified. We cannot determine in advance whether this will be possible until after we receive and review all of the applications. Following this, we will see how many operational projects are recommended for funding, and present the information to the Secretary so she can determine whether to waive the cap. There is no specified limit on a waiver amount; rather it would be informed by the projects recommended for funding.

Q: Do all public awareness handouts and print items need to reference that they were purchased with DHS grants?

A: Yes, all public awareness items (e.g. brochures, posters) should say on them somewhere: “Purchased with U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant Funding.”

Q: Page 15 of the FY11 TSGP Guidance lists the funding available per team for each of the available OPacks. In the past, these maximums could be exceeded with justification of the actual allowable costs to an agency being provided, such as backfill/OT for vacancies caused by moving veterans into

the positions being longer due to an agency having tri-state jurisdiction and a 10-month training academy versus a six-month training academy. Is this permitted?

A: Yes, that is permitted with sufficient justification. The cost estimates provided in the grant guidance are guidelines to help an agency plan. If an agency has better/real numbers and salaries that are higher than the cost estimates, that is allowable as we recognize that different cities have different salaries and related costs. Also, funding more on overtime is ok with the proper explanation. The limitation on overtime is to ensure that agencies are actively working to hire new personnel (increase head count/capability) instead of relying extensively or solely on overtime to fulfill the duties without increasing headcount. As long as you show progress in the hiring process, in line with your agency's requirements (e.g., 10-month training vs. 6-month training), that is ok.

Q: Page 31 of the FY 2011 TSGP Grant Guidance states that an agency applying for OPacks must submit a 5 year "Security Capital and Operational Sustainment Plan." What is the purpose of that plan, and what does it include?

A: The purpose of the plan requirement is to demonstrate that the agency has a plan or a desire to physically remediate critical infrastructure rather than solely rely on operational activities for security, and to show that the agency recognizes that they cannot rely on TSGP to keep on paying salaries after the initial grant. The plan can be high-level in nature (length does not equal completeness) as long as it describes/addresses the following elements:

- 1) The agency is planning on remediating critical infrastructure
- 2) The agency plans to sustain/maintain the OPack positions after the grant funding is spent.

Also, this is a **plan**. It is not a guarantee or a binding agreement/contract. Plans change as the risk (and economy) change. This does not lock or bind the agency into executing the plan exactly as written, but it is to show that the agency is thinking about the future needs and resources, and that their plan is not to rely on TSGP funding forever.

As for overtime restrictions, the limitation on overtime is to ensure that agencies are actively working to hire new personnel (increase head count/capability) instead of relying extensively or solely on overtime to fulfill the duties **of new OPack positions** without increasing headcount. As long as you show progress in the hiring process, that is ok. Further, this year's guidance specifically mentions the allowability of patrols on overtime, so the OPack team can operate on overtime as necessary/justified.